



THE

KNIGHT



VOLUME 14 No. 3, Issue #78. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR.

January-February 1992



ABOVE: 100 Talonas obverse.

TALONAS NOTES DISCONTINUED, THEIR HISTORY, DESIGNS, AND USAGE RECALLED

The Republic of Lithuania has discontinued the usage of the Talonas ration notes, according to an announcement made on January 2 of this year. The announcement specified that most items were going off the Talonas purchase lists effective January 2, with a few commodities remaining until January 20, at which time Talonas notes could not be used. Also announced that the notes were being purchased back at face value.

The Talonas notes were issued beginning in September 1991, under the direction of Prime Minister Vagnorius in an attempt to keep precious goods and commodities inside the Republic of Lithuania. They were soon nicknamed "Vagnorukai" by the populace, a name which stuck during their duration of usage. The Talonas notes were issued at par with the Soviet ruble, in the following denominations: 10, 20, and 50 kopecks, and 1, 3, 5, 10, 25, and 100 rubles.

The announcement of the issuance of the Talonas notes in September 1991 was explained by the then Minister of Economics, A. Simenas:

The government has decided that starting in September, common notes will start to be issued for the purchase of basic non-food goods.

This is the situation today: if we do not raise the prices of consumer goods, merchants will continue to buy them up for resale at higher prices in other markets of the

(Continued on page 2....)

NEW LITAS BANKNOTES PRINTED, BUT ISSUANCE IS DELAYED; & OTHER NEWS

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania voted on November 9, 1991, to make preparations for the reissuance of the litas as the official currency of the country. A committee made up of President Vytautas Landsbergis, Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius, and Bank of Lithuania president Vilius Baldisius were commissioned to set the date the currency was to be introduced, and to make arrangements for the withdrawal of the Soviet ruble from circulation.

According to an article by Balys Gaidziunas in the newspaper *Dirva* November 14, 1991, pg. 2 in an article entitled "Girdeta Is Vilniaus" (Heard from Vilnius) which features news heard on radio Vilnius,

"The litai notes have already been delivered to Lithuania, and to insure its security, a rumor was spread that a package with a bomb was sent to the Bank of Lithuania, that is was now being deactivated and that for their own safety people should not come to the bank."

The people believed this scare tactic, but they learned later that actually at the time, litai banknotes were being delivered and unloaded at the bank."

The article did not state any details concerning the new litas banknotes, but it is surmised that high quality notes were printed outside of the country by a professional well-known printing firm.

Since that time, however, Prime Minister Vagnorius went on national television and announced that the issuance of the litas was

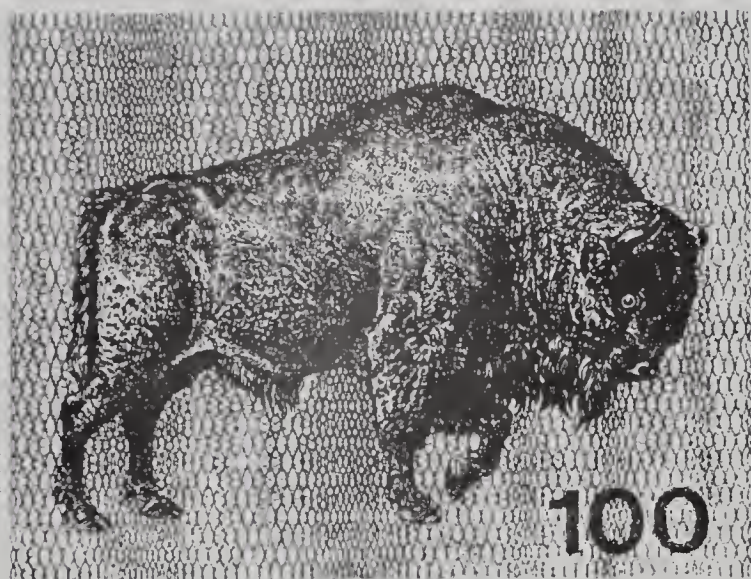
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2. TALONAS NOTES DISCONTINUED,

(Continued from page 1...)

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100



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1991



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Republic, in the U.S.S.R., or in Western markets for hard currency, and the state stores will continue to remain empty.

If we raise prices so that goods will appear on the shelves, on one hand it would be an unbearable burden to the public and on the other hand, factories will not be able to sell their goods to their trade partners who supply the raw materials since they have not agreed (to the price increase) and are not able to pay such high prices. In other words, we will disrupt the flow of supplies and trade with the U.S.S.R. This is the situation with food products: the U.S.S.R. does not agree to buy meat at the prices we have set. But when the price of meat was low, the stores were empty.

What should the government do, to protect the interests of the public?

With the situation being as it is, a third course was adopted, the introduction of common notes.

The basics are as follows. Residents getting an official salary will have at least 20% of the sum paid in common notes. The size of the percentage will be determined by the amount of goods available for purchase with the notes. That is, all the notes will be covered by goods.

Residents, wishing to purchase non-food goods will have to pay the full price, which is lower than the market value, with rubles and notes.

Notes will be on a par with rubles.

One complaint is that the percentage of the salary in notes is small, only 20%. As a result it will not be possible to buy furniture and other necessary items. Such is the case. But it is not possible that once the notes are introduced everybody will immediately be able to purchase everything. Today, when market prices have to be paid, little can be purchased with a salary.

In a theoretical, classical sense, the introduction of the notes is imprecise, since it artificially limits market relationships. However, by appreciating the actual situation and wanting to protect the internal market from ruble inflation, to create conditions so that residents can purchase goods at lower than market prices and to decrease the flow of goods out of the Republic, this means the introduction of common notes should yield some results.

(Continued on page 4...)

PETRA RIMSA'S MEDAL, "VYTAUTAS THE GREAT," 1930.

This month we are featuring Lithuania's most prolific 20th century medal, issued in honor of the 500th anniversary of the death of Vytautas the Great.

This medal had a mintage of 17,000 pieces, and was struck in numerous sizes: 25, 35, 60, 75, and 100 millimeters in diameter. The medal was the work of Lithuania's famous artist and sculptor, Petras Rimša (1881-1961), who produced numerous Lithuanian medals during his lifetime.

The medals were mass produced by the Huguenin Freres & Co. of Le Locle, Switzerland, which also produced Lithuania's military orders & decorations. Struck in bronze, Rimša also privately produced custom silver and gold renditions of his works.

Lithuania's greatest patriarch, Vytautas the Great, reigned as Grand Duke of Lithuania from 1392 to 1430. Vytautas expanded Lithuanian territory and made it one of the leading European powers of his day. He led the Lithuanian army and its allies to a spectacular victory over the Teutonic Knights at the Battle of Tannenberg/Zalgiris in 1410. This event stopped the advance of the Teutonic Knights, assuring independence for Lithuania and other eastern European nations.

The Vytautas the Great medal is Rimša's most well-known. The obverse design became the emblem for the many celebrations held in 1930. During Rimša's 1936-37 tour of the U.S., he presented a specimen of the Vytautas medal to the American Numismatic Association.



OBVERSE: Shown is the image of Vytautas the Great. The legend reads, "VYTAUTAS DIDYSIS 1430-1930." In the background is depicted the Battle of Zalgiris/Tannenberg.

REVERSE: Featured on the reverse is a map of Lithuania in the time of Vytautas. During the 15th century Lithuania stretched from the Baltic to the Black Seas, covering 350,000 square miles. Names of the cities are in Lithuanian. At the bottom appears the "Vytautas' Symbol," a popular emblem based upon ancient denars minted during Vytautas' reign. The legend on the reverse reads, "VYTAUTAS DIDZIO LAIKU LIETUVA," which translates, "Lithuania in the time of Vytautas the Great."

The Vytautas the Great medal is truly a collector's item, especially for Lithuanian numismatists. They still occasionally appear on the numismatic market, and are cherished by those Lithuanians who own them.

NEW 1992 LITHUANIAN COINS ARE ON THE WAY!

New Lithuanian coins have been minted and have been delivered to Lithuania, according to the "Baltija" ELTA information service. A published article entitled "Lithuanian Coins Minted in England" stated:

Lithuanian coins are being minted in England. The "Baltija" -ELTA correspondent was told by a representative of the Birmingham mint that the first issues are in Lithuania. On one side of the coin is the Vytis; the other side designates its value (10, 20, 50 centai, or 1, 2, or 5 litai.) The mock-ups (for the dies) are made in Lithuania.

The Birmingham Mint is a private firm. It mints coins for many countries. In keeping with the tradition of coin minters, the firm refuses to disclose the price of the contract with Lithuania or its duration."

The Knight readers should recall that this same Birmingham mint also produced Lithuania's first minor copper-aluminum coins dated 1925 earlier in this century.

We have also learned that the Bank of Lithuania has declared a competition to create four coin designs. Two of them in commemoration of the restoration of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania (one regular circulation metal, the other in GOLD). Another commemorating Lithuania's return into the International Olympic Committee and participation in the 1992 games; and the fourth design of the artist's choice.

We will keep you our members informed as to these developments in future issues of The Knight. This is going to be a very exciting year for our hobby specialty!

4. TALONAS NOTES DISCONTINUED

(Continued from page 2...)



1991



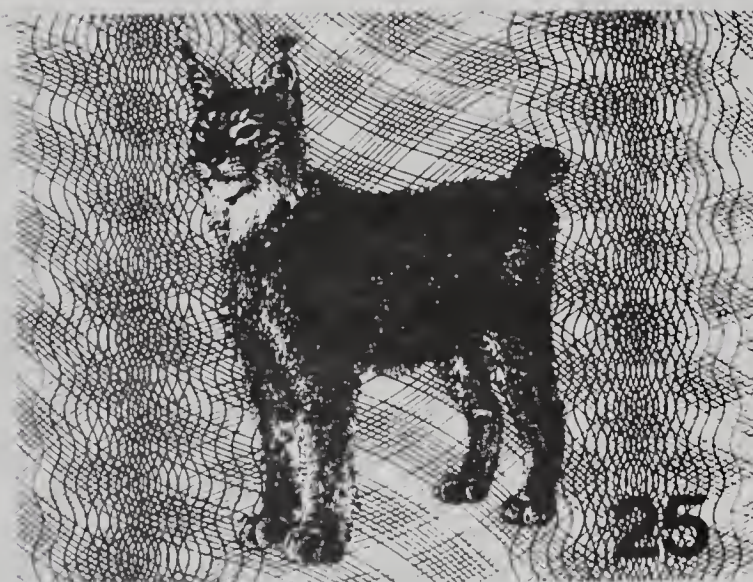
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The long range forecast for the use of common notes is as follows: When a number of categories of goods have reached high prices, they will be taken out of the purchase-by-note category and in such a way, free market prices will gradually be reached. The common notes will have achieved their purpose and they will be discontinued. However, it is possible that the U.S.S.R., will stop supplying Lithuania with rubles. Such a problem already exists in Estonia. Or it will introduce a new currency, then the notes may take on new functions.

To create our own financial credit system we need the **Litas**--a normal, real monetary unit. The common notes are a temporary measure. In any case, their future is dependent on conditions in the U.S.S.R. and her relationship to Lithuania."

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Unfortunately, the Talonas notes did not achieve their intended goal, as there are still a wide range of economic, political, and internal social problems which have not yet been solved. Today in Lithuania the preferred currency is U.S. dollars, which are used to purchase things such as apartment rent, refrigerators, and automobiles (for those few who could afford them). The discontinuance of the Talonas notes now leaves only the declining Soviet ruble as the official currency in Lithuania at the moment, until the government can come up with a new plan or successfully introduce the new Litas currency.

In our last issue of *The Knight*, with the limited new information we had at the time, we announced that the Talonas notes were temporary currency. In a sense, they were. In another sense, they are of course ration coupons. Due to their "at par" value with the ruble, and the fact that they were being used in theory to wean the public from the ruble system, they can be considered sort of a "temporary quasi currency" by Lithuanian collectors, and therefore are a vital part of any Lithuanian numismatic collection. They look like currency and were issued alongside currency.

This issue we will describe in detail these Talonas notes, picturing those notes which did not appear in the last issue of *The Knight*.

The Talonas notes all carry the official insignia of the Republic of Lithuania: Vytis. The other Lithuanian emblem, the Columns of Gediminas,

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKA TALONAS

1991

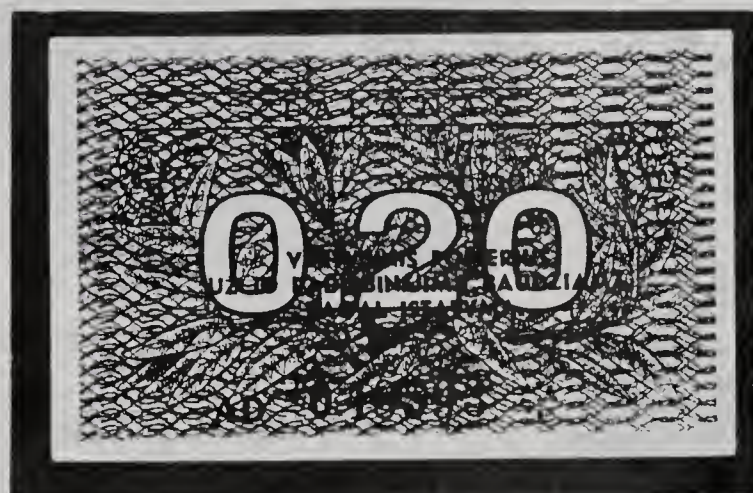
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appears throughout the note paper itself as a watermark. The small kopeck notes measure 84 x 54 mm., while the full ruble notes measure 120 x 76 mm. Two varieties of the notes exist on the kopeck notes. The first variety contains green serial letters and number, with no counterfeiting clause. The second variety contains black serial letters and numbers, with the counterfeiting clause printed in black above, over the numeral. The larger size notes apparently have the same two types of varieties, i.e. with or without the counterfeiting clause, but on those the clause is printed across the bottom on the obverse. It appears that the counterfeiting clause was added with a second and/or additional printings.

The text on the Talonas notes is as follows. Obverse: "LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKA, TALONAS," meaning "Republic of Lithuania Note." On the right is the date "1991" with the Vytis emblem below. Below the Vytis emblem is the denomination numeral. A large numeral appears in the left center, surrounded by a herbal/floral design. In small print below is the counterfeiting clause, "VERTYBINIS POPIERIUS UZ JO PADIRBIMA BAUDZIAMA PAGAL ISTATYMA," which translates, "Reedemable note. Its counterfeiting is punishable by law." Those notes without the clause are scarcer.

It should be noted that the Lithuanian government avoided using patriotic designs on these notes. Rather, they chose common plant life found in the country, and near extinct wildlife which was historically found in the forests of Lithuania.

A description of each note is as follows:

1 Talonas. Light yellow. Obv: Berries. Rev: two Salamanders (driezas).

3 Talonas. Green. Obv: Berries; Rev: Two cranes (garnys).

5 Talonas. Blue. Obv: oak leaves and acorns; Rev: a falcon (sakalas).

10 Talonas. Brownish red. Obv: Leaves and nuts; Rev: two weasels (kaiune).

25 Talonas. Red and Blue. Obv: Fir tree branches; Rev: a lynx (luis).

50 Talonas. Aqua and pinkish red. Obv: Thistles; Rev: A moose (elnias).

100 Talonas: Green and brown. Obv: Dandelions; Rev: European bison (Stumbras).

NOTE: We have consulted an expert on Lithuanian herbs and plant life and hope to have an exact name for the berrie plants in our next issue, plus any corrections on the animals, etc.

ESTONIAN UPDATE

From "Baltija" ELTA information service:

"The Director of the Bank of Estonia has denied rumors that new Estonian coins are being minted in Finland. Engravings are being received from Finland, but the coins will be manufactured in Estonia. They will be yellow color, 5, 10, 20, 50 cent and 1 krone value. 2 and 5 Krone value coins may also be issued.

If the requirements of the International Olympic Committee can be met, coins commemorating Estonia's participation in the 1992 Olympic games will be issued.

**BALTICA PO BOX 66882
SEATTLE, WA 98166 USA**

(paid ad.)

Has Talonas notes for sale and other Baltic material. Mention LNA and write for price list.

LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY

BY

Jonas K. Karys

English Translation by
V.L.G. Matelis

14.



Continued from last issue...



Ermitažo 200 metų sukakt. medalis.

Above: Hermitage Museum 200th anniversary Medal.

LEFT: Eagles on various countries' coins.

Ereliš įvair. kraštų monetose: 1, graikų (V a. sen. eros); 2, taip pat (IV a. sen. eros), ant dievo Dzeuso rankos; 3, Egipto Ptolomėjū; 4-5, romėnų; 6, Sirijos provinc. (III a. nauj. eros); 7, Vok. Romos Imper. (1604), dvigalvis; 8, Rusijos Petro I (1701); 9, Austro-Vengrijos (1915); 10, JAV (prekyb. dolery 1873); 11, Vokietijos Reicho (1935); 12, naujosios lenkų Žečpospolitos (1949).

ETALONAS/Etalon. (From the French). A). The normal implement for measuring (for example, length--an archival international meter). B) in numismatics, a pattern coin, or an example of the makeup of a bar, known and used in Europe from the 14th century to the present day. The latest etalon would most often be a metal cylinder with appropriate coin dies (obtained from such a bar), and struck into the top and bottom (ends).

EUROPA. 1. A mythological beauty of the ancient Greeks, daughter of the Phoenician ruler. The god Zeus fell madly in love with her. On one occasion, turning himself into an ox, Zeus abducted her, brought her into Crete and made her the mother of his children. In the earlier Greek coins, and later on the Roman coins, Europa is pictured in front of an ox, or sitting on the ox's neck, or she is struck on one side of the coin, while the ox appears on the other. 2) The smaller part of the Ancient World, together with Asia constituting the so-called Eurasian continent. 3. The second moon of Jupiter, sighted and found in 1610 by Galileo Galilei. Its diameter is 3150 kilometers; it circles Jupiter in 3 days and 13-plus hours.

EXERGUE/Exergue. See Palauka/Field.

EXONUMIJA/Exonumia. Numismatic items issued by other than a government.

FAKSIMILE/Facsimile. A true copy of an article or item (a signature, symbol, of a numismatic piece, or its part), often in a smaller size; replica of an original.

FALSIFIKACIJA/Falsification. A willful counterfeiting of any object (signature, symbol of a numismatic item or its part, a document, art creation, etc.) A changing, or a forgery; likewise, the production of coins or medals before existing, with the object of profit or other personal aims.

FALSIFIKATORIUS/Falsifier. A person who trades in counterfeit coins, banknotes, medals, pictures, documents and other similar objects and productions, or the originals are touched up, transformed or counterfeited. Coin counterfeiters have continued their nefarious work almost from the beginning of the use of coins. This is shown by the number of Greek and Roman coin counterfeits and by literature relating to them. This is also emphasized by known cases and incriminating material during the middle ages, and during later and present day experience. Counterfeiters caught were and are severely punished. For example, the ancient Greeks would banish or sentence them to death (the famous philosopher-cynic Diogenes likewise found himself banished for falsifying coins). The Romans would banish a notable counterfeiter, while a run-of-the-mill crook of this type would be killed, or sentenced to the galleys, while a slave would be hung on a cross until dead. In Egypt, a criminal of this type would have both hands cut off, or would hang. In the later middle ages, coin counterfeiters would be burned at the stake. The Russians would "cut off the hands of criminals and pour molten lead down their throats" for such activity. In Poland and Lithuania, a condemned money falsifier also would pay for his crime with his life. The English hung the first known counterfeiter of notes, R.W. Vaughan at the end of the 18th century. In our modern day, such severe penalties are not imposed. The counterfeiter is publicly tried and severely punished, now according to more "humane" laws. Two well-known counterfeiters (our neighbors): A German C.W. Becker, and a Pole, J. Majnert (a medalist in the Warsaw Coin Mint), during the 18th and 19th centuries, produced many ancient and never existing coins, and distributed them, thus burdening even Lithuanian numismatists in this sphere.

FANTASTINIAI PINIGAI/Fantastic Money (or Funny Money). Unauthorized monetary symbols, distributed by political and other motives.

FARTHING. The small English coin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ penny value, originating in the 13th and 14th centuries turn, and weighing almost $\frac{1}{2}$ gram. In the beginning, it was of silver, and from the 17th century on, various bronze.

Fe-The symbol for Iron.

FELS. See Folis.

FERDINGAS/Ferding. A) A silver coin valued at $\frac{1}{4}$ mark, issued by the Bishop of Dorpat, appearing in 1528, B) the Swedish king Eric XIV, intruding into Estonia in 1561, permitting the striking there of an entire series of coins, among the the ferding, at that time equal to 2 oeroms; C) the Danish King Fridreik II, and Oesel's Bishop Magnus continued to issue ferdings even up to 1570.

FIAT PINIGAI/Fiat Money. Currency by decree, notes circulated by the power, authority, decree or statute of the government, not backed by any precious metal and having no clear promise of redemption.

FIDONAS/Pheidon. The King of Argos, 7th century B.C. of Greece. The Island of Aegina also paid him allegiance, and it was here that the first silver coins of Europe were struck. According to Herodotus, Phaëdon established and regulated the weights and measurements for the entire Peloponnesus.

FIGURE/Figure. The predominant element in coins, medals and tokens: the picture, shield, heraldic emblem, motto or other feature, inscribed on one or another side (for example, the Knight on the cent coin, Basanavicius' head on the 5 litas piece).

FILS . A 0.001 portion of the Iraq or Jordanian monetary unit, the dinar, a bronze coin.

FYRK/Fyrd. A silver coin, valued at $\frac{1}{4}$ oero value, of Sweden in the 16th century, weighing about 1 gr. From 1624 to 1660, it was struck in copper.

FLORENAS/Floren. (In Italian, florino d'oro, "A golden flower"). About 3.5 gr. in weight, a gold coin of the Republic of Florence, first struck in 1252, with the lily, the city's emblem on one side, and St. John the Baptist on the other. Around the bloom of the lily, the inscription, "Florentia." Issuance of the Florin was discontinued in 1533. A very popular coin, known and imitated almost throughout Europe. Even Venice accepted for its famous ducat the florin's weight and assay value. In Florence and later in other cities, the florin was later struck in silver. In Germany and Holland, it was also known as guldens.

Continued next issue..

FROM THE EDITOR

As you know, we announced in the last issue of *The Knight* that we would like to send our publication on a regular basis to several Lithuanian institutions, the collector's society, and a few collector contacts. This is good P.R. for us and also enables us to receive information and materials much quicker to pass along to you our members here in *The Knight*.

Some of these include the Bank of Lithuania, the Finance Ministry, and the National Archives. In total, there are about 10 of these complimentary subscriptions that need to be filled.

We are asking our members who want to, to sponsor a subscription to Lithuania. These will cost us about \$100 a year (yes--just about all of that going for postage) total, at about \$10 each.

If you would like to help us, please send your check designating that fact. We will be listing our "Lithuania subscription Sponsors" in a future issue. If there is any money extra, it will be carried over to the following years. Thank you so much for your help in this matter; it has been getting expensive for us to bear this cost alone. Write our director, Bob Douchis at our Maryland address about this.

This editor would especially like to thank all of you who have supplied him with articles, materials, and contacts, and information over the past few months. Without you, this issue would not have been as up-to-date as it is. Special thanks to: Aleksandras Radzius, our translator; Victor Zilaitis, Darius Udrys, Charles Matuzas, and the Balzekas Museum. Keep that information coming!

NEXT ISSUE: We will be featuring the Lithuanian Sports Games money issued by the Siauliai bank! (Couldn't fit that article in this issue).

--Your Editor, FRANK PASSIC
Albion, Michigan

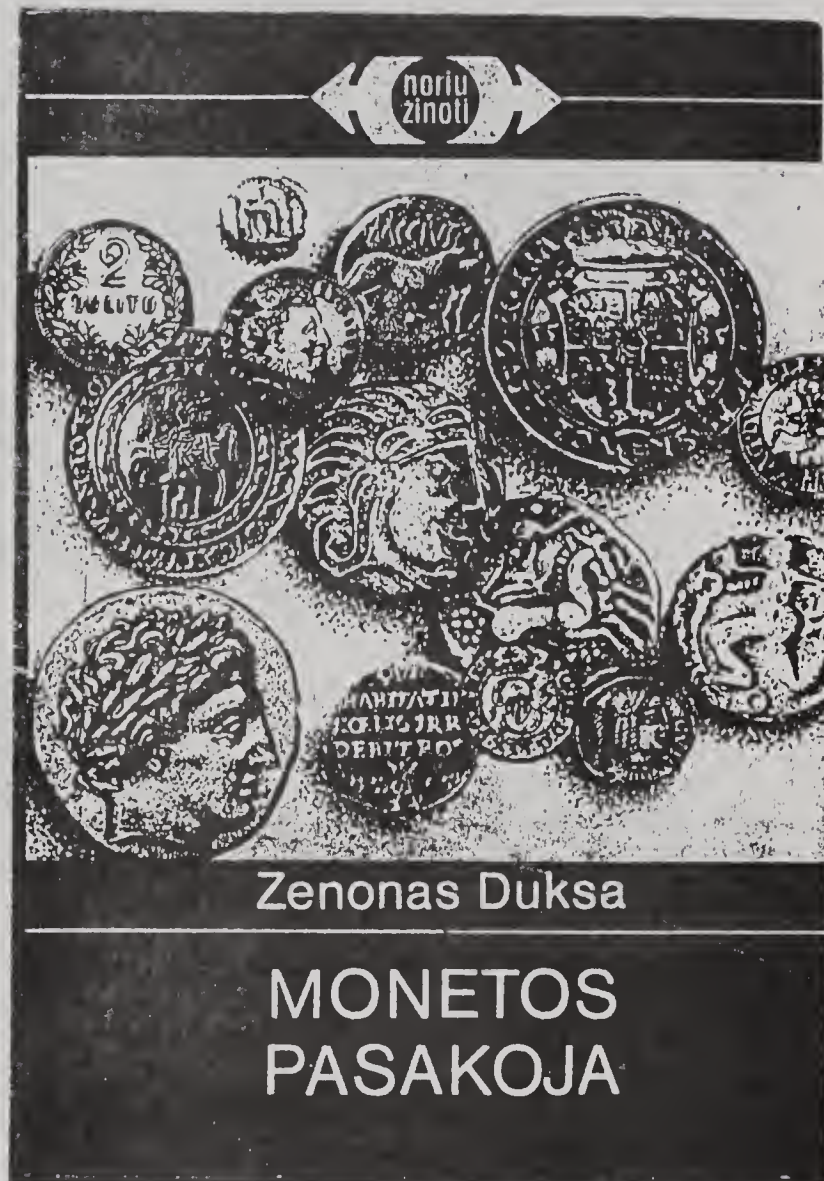
NEW BOOK ON LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS PUBLISHED!

Zenonas Duksa, who served for many years as the numismatic curator at the Vilnius Ethnographic and History Museum, has just published his book on numismatics entitled **MONETOS PASAKOJA**, which contains a wealth of very specific Lithuanian numismatic information. The book covers a wide range of topics, and also utilizes "recent" archaeological discoveries, as well as information that was unavailable to the late Jonas K. Karys, who wrote his numismatic books in exile.

We will print a review of this book in the next issue of *The Knight*, as well as feature English translations of important sections, by our LNA translator Aleksandras Radzius, in future issues.

In the meantime, the author has graciously offered LNA members copies of the book at \$5 each, up 100 total. However, we need someone who is going to Vilnius to pick them up for interested LNA members.

Anyone going to Vilnius? If so, please write this editor. Anyone want one of these books? If so, please send this editor \$10. \$5 will go for the book, and the other half will be used for mailing the book to you here in the U.S., plus any possible handling or custom charges. It is comes to more, we will let you know. We cannot give you a delivery date; this will depend upon when someone who is going to Vilnius volunteers to do this for us, so please be patient. In the meantime, look for our review of this book in the next issue of *The Knight*!



ZENONAS
DUKSA

NEW LITAS BANKNOTES

(Continued from page 1...)

being postponed. Rumor has it that it will not be until the summer of 1992 that the change will be made.

Also from the "Heard from Vilnius" column (Nov. 21 issue) comes this information:

"U.S. dollars are currently being purchased by the Bank of Lithuania for 48 rubles. Concurrently, 70 rubles are paid for a dollar on the black market." [Note: the ratio in December was 95/100 rubles]

The Bank of England announced that Lithuanian gold which had been placed on deposit, at current prices is worth 35 million U.S. dollars. The gold issue will be resolved, although it was turned over to the Soviets. A special Lithuanian and English commission has been formed to consider the wealth left by English citizens in Lithuania. It appears that the recovery of the value of the gold will not be difficult.

At a conference of European heads of state, it was decided to give \$20 million in aid to nations currently freeing themselves from the Soviets. Lithuania will get \$6 million."

The Lithuanian Legation in Washington, D.C. is now the Lithuanian Embassy, and its ambassador is none other than His Excellency, the Honorable Stasys Lozoraitis. His long years of service to the Republic of Lithuania during the years of Soviet occupation paid off. Many of you saw Lozoraitis interviewed on national television during Lithuania's struggle for independence over the past few years. Congratulations, Ambassador Lozoraitis! [Note: The Lithuanian Embassy regularly receives *The Knight*.]

The Latvian Supreme Council announced on November 6 that a Monetary Reform Committee had been established to oversee the introduction of the Lats as Latvia's official currency. The estimated date of conversion was September, 1992.

The Ukraine issued ration coupons in January, 1992, and has signed a contract with the Canadian Bank Note Company to print new Ukrainian currency in *Grivna* denominations.

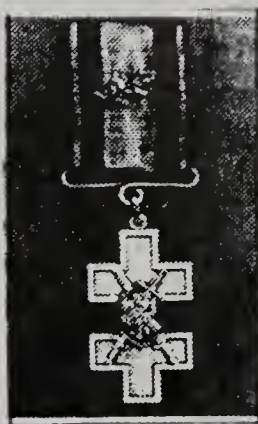
The Oct-Nov 1991 issue of *BRIDGES* gives an excellent listing of Lithuanian officials, government offices, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, etc. For more information, write: Bridges, P.O. Box 27-1765, West Hartford, CT 06127. A yearly subscription is \$12, individual issues are \$2.00. This is an excellent publication, and is printed in the English language.

CORRECTIONS

9.

In our September-October 1991 issue page 1, the correct translation for the Independence Medal reverse side should have said, "FREEDOM [not memories] for the Homeland."

We also mentioned that those citizens killed in the Massacre of January 13, 1991 were awarded the Order of Vytautas the Great. That is in error. It was the Cross of Vytis. The official awarding text stated:



CROSS OF
VYTIS

Republic of Lithuania. Decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania with respect to the awarding of the Order of the Cross of Vytis, First Class.

Decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania:

For conspicuous bravery and perseverance in the defense of the freedom and independence of the Republic of Lithuania, the Order of the Cross of Vytis, First Class, is awarded (posthumously) to: Loreta Asanaviciute, born 1967, Virginijus Druskis, born 1969, Darius Gerbutavicius, born 1973, Rolandas Jankauskas, born 1969, Rimantas Juknevičius, born 1966, Alvydas Kanapinskas, born 1952, Alvydas Kanapinskas, born 1952, Algimantas Petras Kavoliukas, born 1939, Vidas Maciulevicius, born 1966, Titas Masiulis, born 1962, Alvydas Matulka, born

1960, Apolinas Juozas Povilaitis, born 1937, Ignas Simulionis, born 1973, Vytautas Vaitkus, born 1943.

President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, V. Landsbergis. Vilnius, 1991 January 15. No. 1-952.

[Addendum award] Vytautas Koncėvicius, born 1941 is awarded the Order of the Cross of Vytis, First Class (posthumously) 1991 February 21.

It is good to see the Republic of Lithuania awarding honors and decorations again, especially the highest honor for those who gave their lives for the defense of their country.

Several of our LNA members collect Lithuanian military orders & decorations, which include beautiful MEDALS (for example, the Order of Gediminas medal, Vytautas medal, etc.) which we have featured previously here in *The Knight*. Keep this editor informed as to any new information in this field which we can pass along to our members.

For example, we recently read the obituary of noted Lithuanian journalist Antanas Grinius (1906-1992) who died in Detroit January 10. In his obituary it stated, "at his birthday party in November, the controller of the Lithuanian republic, Kazimieras Uoka, gave Mr. Grinius government medals."

Congratulations to our military orders & decorations expert, and faithful LNA member, Vincent W. Alones, who was the subject of a feature article in the No. 2 1991 issue of the Lithuanian Philatelic Bulletin (Chicago). Vince and Henry L. Gaidis have written numerous Lithuanian Orders, Medals, and Decorations articles for us here in *The Knight*.

Hurray! After 50 years of repression--Independent again. What a summer. I guess you and Frank really don't get enough praise for your hard work in keeping the LNA alive and well. My humble gratitude for all your work in promoting Lithuanian numismatics! Thanks very much for carrying on all these years. Now it looks like Baltic numismatics will have a rebirth and we look forward to more interesting articles.

--Ray Hafsaas, Seattle, WA.

Keep up the great work in these times of astounding change! God Bless the independent nation of Lithuania, the land of my great-grandparents!

--Jim Donaghy, Flourtown, PA.

I appreciate your hard work for this club and am looking forward on news of the new coins of free Lithuania.

--Richard Hamlin, Hacienda Hgts., CA.

Keep up the fine work. With all that is going on in Lithuania, this should be an interesting year.

--Dennis Bartoszkiewicz, Brigantine, NJ.

The LNA will take on a whole new dimension now. I recently gave a talk on Baltic coins at two toastmaster clubs and at the Oceanside, CA Coin Club.

--George Schumacher.

I wish The Knight was monthly! I am looking forward to future issues and news on NEW banknotes and coinage of Lithuania. Medals, too.

--Sharon Sienuta, Arlington, VA.

Good articles last year, this next year should be great.

--Russell Hibbs, Henderson, KY.

FOR SALE/WANT ADS

Remember, our Want/For Sale ads are FREE to all non-commercial LNA members! With all the new numismatic material now becoming available, do you want anything for your collection? If so, place your ad here!

In addition, our modest commercial rates are: Business card insertion, \$5 per issue (like Karl Stephens has below) or \$25 a Volume year. Full page, \$50; Half page, \$30; Quarter page, \$15. One page/sheet (can be two sides) insert: \$40. Send in your Want/For Sale ad for our next issue!

FOR SALE: Petras Rimša medal (1930), "Vytautas the Great." 4-inch diameter, bronze. Historic and scarce! Obverse shows bust of Vytautas, while the reverse has map of Europe showing Lithuania stretching from the Baltic to Black Seas. Included with the medal is a 1937 booklet from Baltimore issued during Rimša's 1936-37 U.S. tour. \$350.00. Charles Matuzas, 107-33 117th St., Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11419. (718) 848-3138.

FOR SALE: New Lithuanian stamps, medals, and Talonas currency, including a complete set from 0.10 to 100 Talonas. Also old and new postcards. Write or call. Victor Zilaitis, 2018 Heathfield Circle, Sun City Center, Florida 33573. (813) 633-3403.

FREE PRICE LIST TO LNA MEMBERS. Ray Hafsaas, P.O. Box 66882, Seattle, WA 98166, will send you his latest "Baltic Notices" price list of Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian philatelic material if you mention you are an LNA member.

American-International, P.O. Box 1566, Ellicott City, MD 21041, has a nice price list of Lithuanian coins and philatelic items. Write for their latest price list.

FOR SALE: 3-piece set of Lithuanian Displaced Persons Camp Money from Scheinfeld, Germany, 1946. 10 centu, 50 centu, & 1 Doleris. XF. \$75.

Custom blue Capital Plastic holders for your complete 1925, 1936, and 1938 Y1-14 Lithuanian coin set. \$25. Easily store and exhibit your Lithuanian coins! Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60629.

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FOR BACK ISSUES: Write to: Roland Martick, Goose Hole Road, Otterville; New London, New Hampshire 03257.



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